

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated June 30, 2006, claims 1-20 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended, and claims 2 and 12 canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the limitations recited in dependent claims 2 and 12, respectively. Claims 3 and 13 have been amended to be dependent on claims 1 and 11, respectively. Claims 10 and 20 have been amended to correct typographic oversights. In addition, adequate descriptive support for the amendment of claims 5, 6, 17 and 19 can be found in, for example, claim 2, and Fig. 3 and relevant description of the specification.

Now, claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 17, and 19 are independent.

Claim Objection

Objection has been made to claims 10 and 20 for misspelling of the word "least." In response, the claims have been amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 10 and 20 is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

Claim Rejections

Claims 11, 16, 17, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt, Jr. et al.; claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. in view of Fuller; claims 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller, and further in view of well known prior art; and claims 15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. in view of well known prior art (see paragraphs 5, 7, 9, and 10 of the Office Action).

As mentioned above, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the limitations recited in dependent claims 2 and 11, and claims 5, 6, 17, and 19 have been amended based on claim 2. Accordingly, the above-mentioned claim rejections in paragraphs 5, 7, 9, and 10 of the Office Action has been rendered moot. Applicant will discuss that claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 17 and 19 are not obvious over Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller, and further in view of Koshi et al. which have been cited to reject claims 2-4 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) (see paragraph 8 of the Office Action).

With respect to independent claims 1 and 12, Applicant submits that the applied combination of Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller, and Koshi et al. does not teach a printing system including all the limitations of the claim. Specifically, the applied combination does not teach, at a minimum, “the printing system further comprising a plurality of printing units corresponding to said plurality of unit controllers respectively, wherein each of said plurality of unit controllers transfers the at least one separate plate data to the corresponding printing unit,” recited in claim 1.

The Examiner admits that Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller do not teach printing units corresponding to unit controllers, respectively. However, the Examiner asserts that Koshi et al. teaches such a missing feature. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies upon column 7, line 62 to column 8, line 4 of Koshi et al. to reject the claims, which is reproduced below:

The recorders 7Y, 7M, 7C and 7K correspond to color component data of yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C), and black (K), respectively, and perform a lap-recording process on recording sheets conveyed with color inks. That is, recorders 7Y, 7M, 7C and 7K read image data of color components retained in the

temporary memory means 5, and when sheets being conveyed by the sheet conveyance means 8 pass through the recorders 7Y, 7M, 7C and 7K, record images on the sheets in a superposed fashion with color inks based on the image data.

It is apparent that Koshi et al. simply teaches a color printing job, in which YMCK color image are separately printed on a sheet to form a color image. Although the Examiner asserts that Koshi et al. teaches a plurality of printing units corresponding to a plurality of unit controllers, respectively, Koshi et al. does not teach, and the Examiner does not specify what elements in Koshi et al. correspond, such plurality of unit controllers. Koshi et al., as well as Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller, fails to teach that a plurality of printing units are provided to a plurality of unit controllers. Thus, Koshi et al. does not teach “each of said plurality of unit controllers transfers the at least one separate plate data to the corresponding unit,” as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to modify Hunt, Jr. et al., or the applied combination of Hunt Jr. et al. and Fuller, based on Koshi et al. to arrive at the claimed invention.

In imposing a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner is required to make a “thorough and searching” factual inquiry and, based upon such a factual inquiry, explain why one having ordinary skill in the art would have been realistically impelled to modify particular prior art to arrive at the claimed invention. *In re Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338, 61 USPQ2d 1430, 1433 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Merely identifying features of a claimed invention in disparate prior art references does not, automatically, establish the requisite motivation for combining references in any particular manner. *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 50 USPQ2d 1614 (Fed. Cir. 1999); *Grain Processing Corp. v. American-Maize Products Co.*, 840 F.2d 902, 5 USPQ2d 1788 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

In applying the above legal tenets to this case, it is apparent that the Examiner has not established the requisite motivational element. The Examiner has merely announced that the motivation for doing so would have been to improve the speed of printing color images.

Applicant submits that Koshi et al. addresses reduction of a memory capacity necessary for temporarily retaining image data (see column 5, lines 5-10). Further, separately forming YMCK color images on a sheet is not intended to improve printing speed. Accordingly, there is no support for the Examiner's asserted motivation to improve the speed of printing color images, and the Examiner does not provide wherein the prior art references such motivation is described.

Accordingly, Hunt, Jr. et al., Fuller, and Koshi et al. do not teach a printing system including all the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Applicant further submits that the above discussion is applicable to independent claims 5, 6, 17, and 19. Specifically, Koshi et al., as well as Hunt, Jr. et al. and Fuller, does not teach "generating a second command to transfer at least one separate plate data to a printing unit corresponding to said each of the plurality of unit controllers among a plurality of printing units" (claims 5 and 17), and "transferring at least one separate plate data to a printing unit corresponding to said unit controller among a plurality of printing units" (claims 6 and 19) (emphasis added).

Based on foregoing, Applicant submit that Hunt, Jr. et al., Fuller, and Koshi et al. do not teach, either individually or in combination, the claimed invention in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 17, and 19. Dependent claims 3, 4, 7-10, 13-16, 18, and 20 are also patentably distinguishable over Hunt, Jr. et al., Fuller, and Koshi et al. at least because these claims include all the limitations recited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 17, and 19, respectively. Applicant,

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therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20, and favorable consideration thereof.

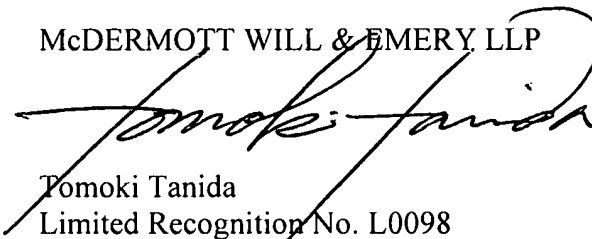
Conclusion

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tomoki Tanida", is written over the printed name and firm name.

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